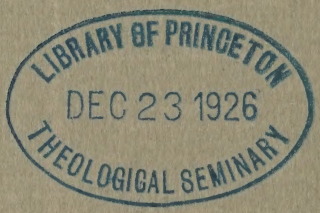
Memorials
Rev. Russell Cecil, D.D.
1853 — 1925

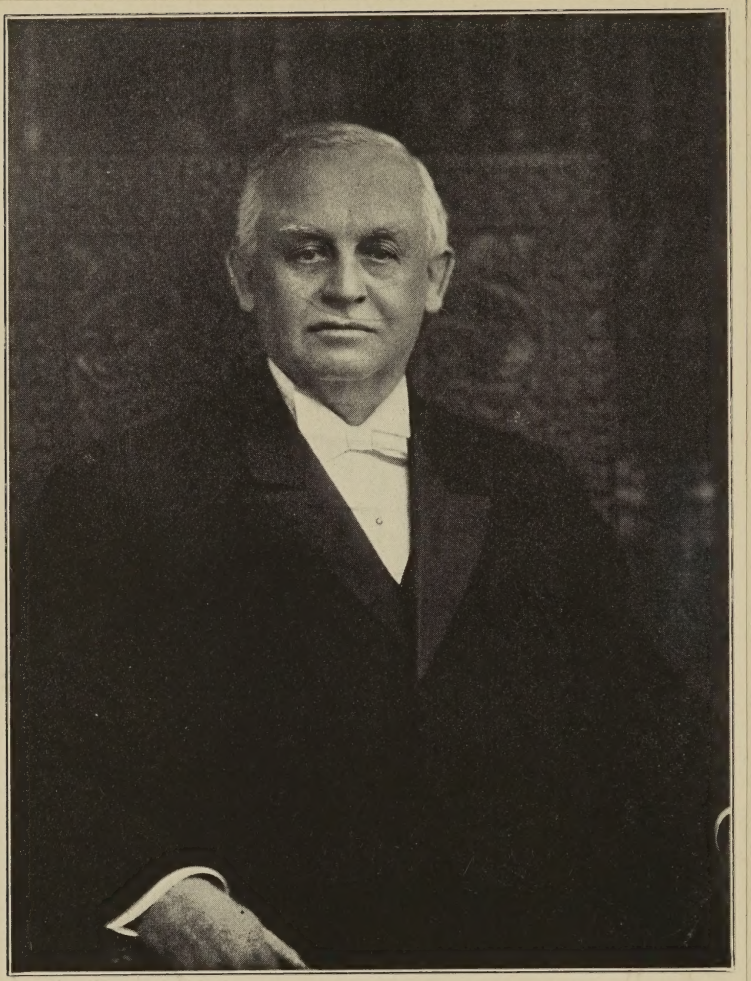
BX
9225
.C42
R5



BX 9225 .C42 R5
Second Presbyterian Church,
Richmond, Va.
Memorials

Memorials

✠



Richmond, Va. Second Presbyterian church.

LIBRARY OF PRINCETON
DEC 23 1926
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Memorials

REV. RUSSELL CECIL, D.D.

Pastor Second Presbyterian Church
Richmond, Va.

Died June 15, 1925

Foreword

IT was the manifest desire of the congregation that some record of the faithful and fruitful work among us of our late beloved pastor, Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D., should be preserved, and we feel assured that those who knew him will value these "Memorials," reminding us, as they do, of him who for twenty-five years in this church preached earnestly and eloquently the Gospel of God's Grace and served the community in many ways until he "fell asleep."

We have added to the Memorials the sermon he had prepared before he was stricken with his last illness, and which he had expected to deliver the following Sunday morning. May it be to each of us a message from one "who being dead yet speaketh."

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

—THE SESSION,

Second Presbyterian Church,
Richmond, Va.

CONTENTS

A Sketch of the Life of Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D. . . . 9

Memorials

By the Session of the Second Presbyterian Church . . . 12

By the Board of Deacons of the Second Presbyterian Church 15

By the Vanguard Class 17

By the Woman's Auxiliary 19

By the Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church 20

By the Presbyterian League 21

By the Synod of Virginia 23

By the Presbyterian Committee of Publication 26

By the Ministerial Association 28

By the Bible Society of Virginia 31

By the Million Dollar Campaign Committee 34

By the Presbyterian Ministers' Association 35

By the Union Theological Seminary 37

Memorial Service 41

Rev. W. L. Lingle, D. D. 41
Rev. W. L. Carson 45
Rev. O. E. Buchholz 48
Rev. Edward Mack, D. D. 50
Rev. H. C. MacLachlan, D. D. 54

Newspaper Statements 57

Address by John S. Munce 67

Dr. Cecil's Last Sermon 76

A SKETCH *of the* LIFE *of* REV. RUSSELL CECIL, D. D.

REV. RUSSELL CECIL, D. D., was born at Monticello, Ky., October 1st, 1853, and entered into Life Eternal after a brief illness, June 15th, 1925. He was the son of Russell Howe Cecil, long a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church and Lucy Phillips Cecil, a rare woman, mentally and spiritually. Dr. Cecil was reared in Mercer County, Ky., and received his early education in what he loved to speak of as "an old field school," but it was taught by a man—Dr. James H. Smith, who knew well how to awaken in his young pupils a love of learning and the ambition for collegiate education. Out of this little school went forth a large group of men who attained distinction in law, medicine and in ministry. Dr. Cecil took his academic training at Princeton University, graduating in 1874. A year later he entered Princeton Theological Seminary and graduated in 1879. He was not satisfied with the ordinary preparation for the high calling to which he had consecrated his life, but added thereto a course in the Free Church College, Edinburg, Scotland, and studied and traveled for a year in Europe and Palestine. Princeton University conferred upon him three degrees—in 1874, the degree of A. B.; in 1877, the degree of A. M., and in 1895, the degree of D. D. The Southwestern Presbyterian College also conferred upon him the degree of D. D. Dr. Cecil had four pastorates in his forty-six years of service—

Nicholasville, Ky., 1880-1885; Central Church, Maysville, Ky., 1885-1889; First Church, Selma, Ala., 1889-1900, and in 1900 he was called to the Second Church, Richmond, Va., where he spent the last twenty-five years of his faithful and fruitful life. Dr. Cecil served the church in many official positions. In 1911 he was moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and the same year was moderator of the Synod of Vriginia, and also moderator of East Hanover Presbytery. The Richmond *Times-Dispatch,* writing of the Virginia Synod in session at Winchester in 1912, said: "There are some very interesting points connected with the positions held by Dr. Cecil. His church is the strongest in the Presbytery and Synod, East Hanover Presbytery is one of the oldest and strongest in the Southern Church, as the Synod of Virginia is the oldest and strongest Synod in the Church, and the General Assembly is the highest court in the Church. So it can be seen that such remarkable coincidences could hardly take place in the case of any other man."

For twenty-five years Dr. Cecil was connected with the work of the Presbyterian Committee of Publication, serving first as vice-chairman and later as chairman of this Committee; he was a member of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions during his residence in Alabama, and for twenty years the president of the Virginia Huguenot Society, in which he took a very vital interest. He served as a trustee of Union Theological Seminary, Virginia; of Columbia Theological Seminary, South Carolina; of Southwestern Presbyterian University, Tennessee, and of Agnes Scott College, Georgia, and through these was largely

identified with the educational work of the Church. He was a charter member of and represented the Southern Presbyterian Church for fourteen years in the World Conference on Faith and Order, and in the Council of Reformed Churches, and from its founding was a member of the Presbyterian League of Richmond Va. In 1912 he was elected president of the Alumni Association of Princeton Theological Seminary, and was president of the Richmond Ministerial Association.

But in all of his activities nothing lay closer to his heart or gripped his interest more fully than the Bible Society. For more than twenty years he was a member of the Board of Managers of the Virginia Bible Society, and for many years was chairman of the Southern General Assembly's Permanent Committee of the Bible Cause, and during this time represented the Southern Presbyterian Church in the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society. The secretary of this great cause wrote of him: "He brought to these important positions the same high-souled service which was the Cecil 'water-mark' on all service he rendered his Lord."

"Faithful Unto Death."

MEMORIAL

Adopted by the Session of the Second Presbyterian Church
Richmond, Virginia

FOR the second time in its history of eighty years, this Church has to place on its records the death of its pastor. On January 6, 1899, it recorded the death of its beloved founder and only pastor for fifty-four years the Reverend Moses Drury Hoge, D. D. Now we are called on to record the death of the Reverend Russell Cecil, D. D., who passed from his earthly labors on June 15, 1925.

Dr. Cecil was installed as pastor of this Church November 14th, 1900; so that he had almost completed a quarter of a century of service. Coming to the Pastorate of the Church at a critical time in its history, he soon endeared himself to its members and won his way into all hearts.

Endowed with a splendid personality, affectionate and winning in his manner, gentle of speech and modest in bearing, for twenty-five years he was our faithful and well-beloved minister, our "Man of God," who went in and out among us carrying a blessing and breaking to us the Bread of Life. He preached the Word in season and out of season—a pure evangel, proclaiming with force and power carefully prepared, faithful messages of God's love to sinful men. No note of doubt was in these messages; he had the "assurance of faith" and "declared the whole counsel of God." "I know whom I have believed" was his message, and his heart yearned that every one should

know the living and loving Christ as their Savior, their Sanctifier and their Comforter.

He was more than our preacher—he was our well-beloved friend. In joy and sorrow, in distress of mind, body and estate, he was the faithful friend, who, with loving heart, brought the word of sympathy, tender consolation and gentle kindness, pointing to him, "who carried our sorrows," and cheering us with the glad tidings of the Gospel of God's grace. He never spared himself or failed in any duty or responsibility in connection with his pastoral duties; visiting the sick, comforting the sorrowing, guiding the young, encouraging the faint-hearted, and cheering the aged, he brought help to many.

He spent his life for his people.

Of broad and liberal education, sound scholarship, wide reading, and endowed with a most discriminating mind, he loved the truth, and seeing Jesus clearly, as the "author and finisher of our faith," the mists of error and currents of doubt never beclouded his vision or swerved him from the straight course. He believed that Jesus was the only Savior of sinful men; yet his walk was so gentle that those who differed loved and respected him.

He had a singularly clear, far-seeing mind and was eminently wise in counsel, which made him much sought after as an adviser and gave him a place of respect and confidence and honor among his brethren, to whom he was ever the kind friend and counselor. He was a great Presbyter, humble and unselfish, never putting himself forward, yet because of his great gifts he received many honors and was called again and again to positions of the greatest responsibility and

highest honor in church courts and councils, in all of which he bore himself with ability, dignity and power. He was truly one of the "Fathers" of the church.

Easy of approach by young and old, respected, reverenced, beloved, he held an honored place, not only among the people of his own church, but in the hearts of the entire community as a good citizen and a great Christian. He was great because he was good.

With the blessings of God, this Church prospered under his ministry, greatly enlarging in numbers, gifts and works, and we thank our Father in Heaven for having blessed us in sending him to be our pastor, and for his life and work and example.

Death found him ready. In the midst of our sorrow that we will see his face on earth no more, we would not forget that he has now entered into the perfect bliss and joy in the presence of the Master he loved and served on earth and heard His gracious welcome, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

RESOLVED, That to Mrs. Cecil and the members of the family we express our loving sympathy in the death of their beloved husband and father, and commend them to the care of our Father in Heaven.

RESOLVED, That this memorial be spread on the minutes of the Session, read to the Congregation, published in the Church papers, and sent to Mrs. Cecil and members of the family.

MEMORIAL

Adopted by the Board of Deacons of the Second Presbyterian Church

IN the death of our beloved pastor, Dr. Cecil, this Board of Deacons, as well as all of the organizations of the Church, the Church at large and the community, has experienced a great loss. Dr. Cecil was not only our pastor but he was a personal friend of each one of us, always approachable, and one to whom we would as instinctively turn in time of trouble, as we would to the nearest and dearest of our own families. He combined most happily those characteristics both of pastor and friend. He came to our Church at a critical period in its history, and at a time when just such a pastor was needed most. His work has been most fruitful, and it has been largely through him that our Church has maintained its usefulness and prominence in this community, and that so many souls have been added to the Church. While Dr. Cecil had attained a ripe age, his health and apparent strength were such that we confidently expected and hoped to have him with us for many years to come. His brief illness and sudden death, therefore, came as a great shock, and have cast a gloom over the whole Church. Although he has gone before, he has left behind him a memory of service well done, and his life among us will continue to be an inspiration and an encouragement and example to us all to strive to so live that we may reap the reward of those who walk with the Lord, even as he has done.

This Board, desiring to record resolutions upon the death of Dr. Cecil resolves:

1. That in his death this Board has lost a pastor and friend, and a wise counsellor whose place it will be difficult to fill.

2. That we are grateful to God for his earnest and forceful preaching of the Gospel, his sterling character, for his life which exemplified so well his own teachings, and that he was spared to be with us for so long a time.

3. That we tender to his bereaved family our affection and our deepest sympathy in their great loss.

4. That the Secretary of this Board be instructed to send to Mrs. Cecil a copy of this preamble and these resolutions.

MEMORIAL *and* RESOLUTIONS

Adopted by the Vanguard Bible Class of the Second Presbyterian Church

RESOLUTIONS on the death of Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D., for twenty-five years pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Va., passed unanimously at a meeting of the Vanguard Bible Class, Sunday, June 28, 1925.

Death has, for the second time within a period of eighty years in the history of this Church, removed from our midst a servant of God, whose passing away will not only be felt by this Church, of which he was the pastor for more than a quarter of a century, but by this City, State and Nation.

His great piety, gentleness of manner and sympathetic understanding of the problems of life enabled him to minister to the needs of his people in a way that brought comfort and consolation to the bereaved; hope and encouragement to the discouraged and cast down and happiness to those who, by his helpful assistance, were enabled to get a clearer conception of the Christian life, and, like Paul, be able to say, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

Deeply sensible of the great loss this Class and Church have sustained in the death of Dr. Cecil, and being desirous of placing on our records a suitable expression of our sorrow,

Therefore, be it Resolved:

1. That in the death of Dr. Cecil, the Second Presbyterian Church has lost a very devout and able minister; this city and community one of its best citizens, and the Presbyterian Church one of its great outstanding figures.

2. That in his long pastorate, Dr. Cecil brought to his work an abundance of enthusiasm and zeal for the salvation of his fellow-man, and his absolute faith in God and in Jesus Christ as the Saviour of sinful men enabled him to expound the Scriptures with great power. Under his able ministry, many were brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, who now mourn his death as a personal loss.

3. That the Presbyterian Church at large has been deprived of the services of one who at various times has occupied the highest offices within the gift of the several bodies, which offices he filled with modesty, as becomes a true Christian, and yet with such signal ability that he was known and recognized as one of the greatest moderators the Church has ever had.

4. That this city of his adoption has lost one of its best and most-beloved citizens, a man who always responded to every call made upon him, and whose presence at any function, large or small, was always a benediction.

5. That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Vanguard Class; that they be printed in the Church Bulletin, and that a copy of the same be sent to the family of Dr. Cecil with an expression of our sincere, heartfelt sympathy in their great bereavement.

RESOLUTIONS

Adopted by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Second Presbyterian Church

WHEREAS, God in His infinite wisdom and love has called away from earth, into that rest that remaineth for the children of God, our beloved Pastor, Dr. Russell Cecil, and as we feel very keenly the great loss that has come to us in this dispensation of God's providence;

Therefore, be it Resolved:

1. "That there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel," and while it is hard for us to understand why such a good and useful man should have been removed from this sphere of usefulness; yet we bow in humble submission to the will of our Heavenly Father, knowing that "all things work together for good to them that love God."

2. We wish to express our high appreciation of him as Pastor and friend. He set for himself the high standard drawn in the Holy Scriptures, and measured up to the ideal as a Christian gentleman and citizen. The Church will miss his wise and able counsels; we will miss his earnest Gospel sermons, his kindly, gentle and courteous ministrations in our homes, his genial smile, his cordial handclasp, and his words of sympathy and cheer in sorrow and afflictions. May the memory of his Christlike life long dwell with us as an incentive to more consecrated lives.

3. That these Resolutions be placed in our minutes and a copy be sent to his bereaved widow, to whom, together with his other loved ones, we extend our deepest sympathy.

RESOLUTIONS *of* RESPECT

Concerning the Death of Dr. Russell Cecil
Drawn Up by the Official Bodies
of the
Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church
June 28, 1925

IN the passing of Dr. Russell Cecil from his earthly career into his Heavenly Glory, we recognize that our whole beloved Southern Church has lost a most wise counsellor and friend; that the Second Church has sustained the loss of a pastor and preacher, tested and tried by many years of devoted service; and that Hoge Memorial Church, to which he was so strongly attached, is bereft of one who was ever kind, sympathetic and ready to help either in service or counsel.

Therefore, be it Resolved by the Board of Deacons and Session:

First, that we take this means of expressing to the Second Presbyterian Church congregation our deep sympathy in their great sorrow, and assure them of our prayers that the God of all Grace would guide them in the future as He has so wonderfully done in the past.

Second, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Session of the Second Church, and that they be spread upon our minutes.

MEMORIAL *of the* PRESBYTERIAN LEAGUE *of* RICHMOND, VA.

In Memory of Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D., Member of the Board of Directors

ON June 15, 1925, Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D., after an illness of only two days, was called to his reward. Dr. Cecil was one of the best friends the Presbyterian League ever had, and was a member of its Board of Directors from the time the League was incorporated in 1915 to his death in 1925.

In 1900 Dr. Cecil became pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Richmond. For twenty-five years he stood in that historic pulpit and preached with power the unsearchable riches of the Gospel of Christ. At the same time he lived that Gospel in his daily life in such a way as to make Christianity winsome and attractive to others.

He was widely known and loved throughout the Church. He was a man whom the Church delighted to honor, for he was worthy. In 1911 he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of our Church.

His interests went beyond the bounds of his own Church and denomination. The world was his parish. He was especially interested in promoting Christian unity and fellowship among the various Evangelical Churches of the world. He was a member of the World's Conference on Faith and Order.

His love for unity and co-operation gave him an especial interest in the Presbyterian League, which stands for unity and co-operation among the Presbyterian Churches of Richmond, for the building of the Church and the Kingdom in and about this city.

From the day the League was founded in 1911 he was one of its guiding spirits, and from the day it was incorporated in 1915 he was one of its Directors.

We shall miss his wise counsel and his genial face which always radiated Christianity. Let us pray for a double portion of his spirit.

MEMORIAL

Adopted by the Synod of Virginia
Also by East Hanover Presbytery

WHEN on June 15, 1925, this servant of God was called upon to cease his earthly labors and to come up higher, it might truly have been said, "A prince in Israel has fallen," though he fell only that he might rise to a higher and nobler service; for there was no greater prince of God among all the members of this Synod than Dr. Russell Cecil.

He believed that preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ was the great outstanding work to which he was called, and he preached with power and simplicity the pure gospel of the unsearchable riches in Christ Jesus. He delighted in preaching the great doctrines of the Scriptures, but did it in such a way as to offend no one, but to strengthen the faith of believers and to win the unconverted to faith in a crucified Saviour.

He was firm in his convictions as to the great fundamental and essential truths of the gospel of salvation as taught in the Scriptures and as held by the Southern Presbyterian Church, and there was no unsoundness in him.

As he fed the flocks of God over which he was called to be pastor he showed a friendliness, a sympathy, and an interest in all that concerned each member, that won for him the highest esteem and the deepest love of them all. He was always ready to render a service to any one whom he could aid in any way.

In the affairs of the Church at large he always took the deepest interest. He was exceedingly faithful in his attendance upon the meetings of the Church, with which he was connected, and in the performance of every duty connected with them. Few men were ever called upon to serve the courts of the Church oftener or in more important ways than was he.

In 1910-11 he had an experience, which was probably unique in the history of the Presbyterian Church, and which showed the high place he had reached in the esteem of his brethren.

He was during that year at the same time Moderator of the four courts of the Church with which he was connected. As pastor, he was Moderator of the Session of the Second Church in Richmond. He was then elected Moderator of the Synod of Virginia, of the General Assembly, and of East Hanover Presbytery.

To him were given many of the honors of the Church, and upon him were laid many of its labors. He bore the honors with credit to the Church and to himself, and he performed all of the labors as unto the Lord and for His glory.

As a man he was pre-eminently a Christian, and no one ever doubted the sincerity of his faith. His influence upon those with whom he came in contact, whether in the Church, in the business world or in social life, was always that of a true Christian, whose chief thought was the honor and glory of God and the salvation of souls. He left a deep impress for good upon all those with whom he came in contact, and there are many who cherish his memory as among their dearest treasures.

In the brief space available it is possible to give only a limited sketch of the outstanding points in his life. He was born in Monticello, Ky., on October 1, 1853. He was educated at Princeton University, Princeton Theological Seminary and the Free Church College, Edinburg, Scotland. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Southwestern Presbyterian University, and from Princeton University. He was licensed by Transylvania Presbytery in May, 1877, and was ordained by West Lexington Presbytery in November, 1879. He was pastor at Nicholasville, Ky., 1879-1885; of Central Church, Maysville, Ky., 1885-1889; of the First Church, Selma, Ala., 1889-1900. From Selma he came to Richmond, Va., in 1900, and for twenty-five years he was the faithful and efficient pastor of the Second Church of that city, and there in the full strength and vigor of his manhood he was suddenly called to his heavenly home.

Though his labors here have ended, the results of these labors will abide forever, and the influence which he exerted will be felt throughout eternity by thousands of those who knew, admired and loved him.

RUSSELL CECIL
An APPRECIATION

Adopted by the Committee of Publication, October 6, 1925, and Ordered Spread Upon the Minutes

THE life of Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D., born October 1, 1853, died June 15, 1925, was a benediction to a countless multitude who came under his influence, and he left as a legacy to those who were closely associated with him in Christian work, an example of high devotion to duty which will always be to them a source of inspiration and power.

Dr. Cecil's clear judgment, splendid poise and unfailing courtesy easily marked him for positions of leadership, and while carrying the heavy burden of a large and exacting pastorate, he yet always found time to perform such additional tasks as were assigned him by the courts of his Church, and was never too busy to take his full share in the promotion of civic enterprises which promised to advance the welfare of the community. While modesty and reserve controlled his actions, his great ability was quickly recognized in any group, and his wise counsel and constructive suggestions were always helpful in solving difficult problems of Church or state.

Dr. Cecil became a member of the Publication Committee in 1901, and for about twenty-five years was an enthusiastic supporter of every plan for increasing the service of the Committee to the Church. In 1919 he succeeded the late Dr. James Power Smith as Chair-

man of the Committee. The officials and all members of the Executive Committee will ever hold as a precious memory their association with Dr. Cecil through these years of service, and we desire to record our deep sense of loss in the home-going of this princely servant of God. The Church has lost a loyal and efficient worker, his family a devoted husband and father, and the community an illustrious and useful citizen, but all are the richer for his life and example.

MEMORIAL

Adopted by the Ministerial Association of Richmond and Vicinity

THE Ministerial Union of Richmond and vicinity hereby records its great sense of loss in the calling of Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D., from his labors on earth to his reward in Heaven on June 15, 1925.

For twenty-five years he had been a member of this Union. During all this time he was deeply interested in all that the Union undertook for the advancement of God's kingdom. He was regular in his attendance upon its meetings, always interested in its work, and a zealous participant in all of its activities.

His fellow members in the Union held him in the highest esteem as a brother beloved. He was always cordial and sympathetic. He was looked upon as a wise counsellor in all matters that were under consideration by the Union. He was often called upon to take the place as leader in the various movements in which the Union was engaged.

The Union recognized him as being a man of the highest Christian character, who lived close to God, who was always ready to render any service in his power to God or man.

Dr. Cecil was one of the leading men of the Presbyterian Church, but his influence and his labors were not confined to that Church. He was always interested in and ready to help forward any movement that was for the welfare of the Church of God or of this city.

He was generous in the bestowal of his friendship, and the result was that he had many friends, who admired and loved him. Evidence of the esteem in which he was held by his fellow ministers of the gospel was shown by the fact that there were in attendance upon his funeral services about seventy-five ministers of many denominations of the city and vicinity.

As a preacher of the gospel he was sound and strong. He stood for "the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints," and there were many who delighted to hear him, as he delivered the messages which he received from God's word, under the guidance of His Holy Spirit.

The members of the Union cherish the memory of their delightful intercourse with Dr. Cecil, and feel that they have been greatly benefited by their association with him. They rejoice in the assurance that this beloved brother, who walked close with God on earth, is now with the Saviour, whom he so long loved and served here below, and that he has been called to a higher service above.

The Union would express to the members of Dr. Cecil's family its deepest and sincerest sympathy in this great affliction, which has come to them, and yet it rejoices that his loved ones do not have to mourn as those who have no hope; that they have the assurance that their loved one has gone to be with Jesus; and that they can find comfort in the thought that he is waiting in Heaven to receive them, when the Father shall say to each of them, "Come up hither."

To the Second Presbyterian Church, of which Dr. Cecil was pastor for twenty-five years, the Ministerial

Union offers its sympathy, while it rejoices in the good work that he did in and through the church, and the Union prays most earnestly that God may send them another pastor, who will be for it such a shepherd and leader as he whom God has called away, and that together they may carry on the work laid down by Dr. Cecil.

MEMORIAL

Adopted by the Board of Managers of the Bible Society of Virginia

THE Members of the Board of Managers of the Bible Society of Virginia desire to put upon the records of the Society the following testimonial expressive of their appreciation of the character and worth of the late Dr. Russell Cecil:

Few men in the history of Richmond have been more universally beloved and admired by its citizens, or have made a more lasting impression for righteousness upon the city than Dr. Cecil. He did not have the prestige of a native Virginian, having been born in Kentucky and having spent the greater part of his life out of the state, but so thoroughly was he in accord with all that was best and noblest in Virginia, that from the time he came to Richmond to be Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in 1900, he was so ideally Virginian that no one would have supposed he had not been born and brought up here.

Dr. Cecil was blessed with a splendid mind which had had all the advantages of college training under the best masters. He was a graduate of Princeton University and of Princeton Theological Seminary.

So finely balanced was his mind and so firmly established was his faith that the many cults and isms of the present day which shake the faith of so many, never disturbed him in the least. To him there could be no conflict between science and religion, both were from the same God, and if there seemed irreconcilable

now, further knowledge of science would clear up the difficulty.

No shadow of doubt as to the truth of the Scriptures ever passed across his mind. He saw in the Holy Bible the Word of God, and here God spoke, and that was the end of controversy. So being convinced himself, he necessarily convinced others, and his preaching carried all the winsome persuasiveness which came from his unbounded faith, his strong mentality and a gentleness which he had gained by a living union with Jesus Christ. Dr. Cecil was a Presbyterian by conviction. He believed that of all church government Presbyterianism was the best, and because of this belief, he was a Presbyterian with all his heart. But that did not make him blind to what was good and apostolic and Christlike in other churches. He could and did mingle with his brethren other than Presbyterian. He joined them and took part in their services, and he was that affable, genial, agreeable brother minister that one loved to be with and regretted to part from.

His own church, in the many honorable positions to which it elected him, showed how highly it appreciated his many sterling qualities, and the other churches generally, as well as the citizens at large, were always ready to do him honor, as seen in the many important assemblies when he was called to be their spokesman.

We members of the Virginia Bible Society need not stress what he was to this organization. We know how long and how efficiently he served on this Board, and how ready he was to perform any duty; how wrapped up his heart was in the work of the Society, and how he prayed and labored for its success.

"He has fought a good fight, he has finished his course, he has kept the faith." He has fallen asleep in Christ, leaving the heritage of a good name and an example worthy of being followed by all.

MEMORIAL

Adopted by the Executive Committee of the Million Dollar Campaign for Christian Education of the Synod of Virginia

WHEREAS, it has pleased our Heavenly Father, in His inscrutable wisdom, to take from the sphere of his earthly labors our friend and associate on this Committee, Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D.

Be it Resolved; First, That in the death of Dr. Cecil this Committee has sustained the loss of one of its most devoted and efficient members, one who was always wise and prudent in counsel, courteous and considerate in his relationship with his co-workers, alert to every movement for the advancement of the cause of Christ and loyal to every interest committed to him. It was a pleasure and a privilege to have been associated with him in the work of this Committee, and his place will not be easily filled.

We are grateful to God for his life and work, which will ever be an inspiration to those of us who remain.

"Servant of God, well done!
Rest from thy loved employ,
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy."

Second, That we extend to his family our deep and heartfelt sympathy in our common loss, praying that the God of all comfort will be especially near to them in the hour of their sorrow.

Third, That a copy of these resolutions be spread in the minutes of this Committee to become a part of its permanent records, and that a copy be sent to the family.

A TRIBUTE *to* REV. RUSSELL CECIL, D.D.

Adopted by the Presbyterian Ministers' Association

IN view of the departing of our honored and beloved brother, Rev. Dr. Russell Cecil, Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Va., to be with his Lord and ours, the Presbyterian Ministers Association of this city records the following tribute to his memory:

On June 15, 1925, after a brief illness, Dr. Cecil was called from the ministries of a busy and influential pastorate "to be with Christ," and to receive "a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge shall give."

This Association will ever cherish, with grateful remembrance, his varied and distinguished services to the Church and to the world in every department of his sacred calling.

As a pastor he was watchful and eminently helpful. As a friend he was true, cordial and generous. As a counsellor he was responsive, wise and sympathetic. As a citizen he was an exemplar of righteous living. As a teacher he loved to set forth and was a master of doctrine. As an evangelist he was fervent and eloquent. As a preacher of "the glorious gospel" he was strong, tender and convincing. As a presbyter he loved the organic life of the Church and addressed himself with diligence and effectiveness to her welfare. In her councils and courts the weight of his opinions and the force of his discussions received church-wide recognition.

In all the relations of life Dr. Cecil seemed to approximate the standard of a specialist, ever addressing himself with diligence, sound judgment and abiding enthusiasm to the tasks assigned him, and the ideals to the attainment of which he summoned the varied talents with which he was endowed.

If we seek the sources of his wide usefulness and abundant labors, they may be found in his well-rounded and mature culture; in his great heart of sympathy, responsive to human need, wherever found; in his zeal for truth, justice, reverence and every human virtue; in his energy and fidelity in the discharge of every duty and the accomplishment of every worthy task. The unity of these under divine grace may interpret much of the story of his consecrated life.

To the family of Dr. Cecil and to all to whom he was bound by ties of friendship and affection, this Association extends its warmest sympathy, while treasuring with them the memory of his full orbed ministry, his splendid talents, and his eminent service to the Church, to humanity and supremely to his gracious Lord.

"Servant of God, well done!
Rest from thy loved employ;
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy."

His body was laid away, as resting on the shield of his faith, in beautiful Hollywood, there to sleep in Jesus, until that great day, when, responsive to his Master's call, spirit and body shall again be one, and so shall he be ever with his Lord.

As in life he counted it a joy to live for Him, who died and rose again, so in death he was unafraid.

MEMORIAL

Adopted by the Executive Committee of the Union Theological Seminary in Virginia

THE Executive Committee of Union Theological Seminary is greatly bereaved in the death of Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D., for many years one of its most active and highly honored and greatly beloved members. Recognizing the value of theological training for our preachers, Dr. Cecil from the moment he came to Richmond as the pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church which he served so long and so successfully, gave of his time and energy and influence to Union Seminary. As soon as a vacancy occurred on the Board of Trustees, which naturally should be filled by a Richmond minister, Dr. Cecil was chosen by the Synod of Virginia as the one to fill that vacancy, and the whole Synod was delighted to have that opportunity and privilege.

"At once Dr. Cecil's worth as a wise and judicious counsellor was recognized, and he logically was forced by the Board of Trustees into the front rank of leadership in its deliberations and actions. He was immediately placed on the Executive Committee, perhaps the most important of the Committees of the Board. On this Committee he served most wisely, efficiently, giving freely of his time, ability, and judgment which have been of the greatest value to the Board and to the Committee and to the Seminary. Notwithstanding all the demands made upon him by his large and most influential church and by the many organizations of the

city where he was honored and greatly beloved, Dr. Cecil was ever ready, though often at a sacrifice, to respond to the calls of the Executive Committee and Seminary. The Executive Committee, therefore, desires to place on record in this brief form its high appreciation of his valuable service and its sense of the irreparable loss, which the Committee and Seminary and the entire church have sustained in his going from us.

"Dr. Cecil was an effective preacher of the Old Gospel which he loved, believed and lived. As a pastor, he was a welcome visitor to the people, bringing encouragement, cheer, comfort, and new hope. Honored among men of all creeds, he witnessed to and for the truth in a way that never repelled but always attracted. As a Presbyter, with that fine, clear, judicial poise of mind, he rendered decisions in a manner that brought conviction to all who listened and gave satisfaction to all concerned. He was characterized by a conservatism that was progressive yet safe and sane. He listened to and respected the opinions of those who differed with him, and by his gentle manner and lovable spirit won and held the respect and admiration of all who came in contact with him.

"He was sympathetic, especially with the young, to an unusual degree; and the young men preparing for the ministry, many of whom attended his church, and his younger brethren in the ministry found in him a friend and brother whose brotherly esteem, advice, friendship, and fellowship were beyond price, as well as a wonderful incentive in their work.

"As an author and also writer for the Church papers, he expressed himself clearly, succinctly, effectively, and his opinions carried much weight whenever they were expressed, for the people understood in him one who was always honest with the truth. Above all, Dr. Cecil was a man of God. In it all, he manifested a spirit of humility, for he walked and talked with God. His desire was to do the will of the Master for the Master's honor and glory.

"These talents and wonderful characteristics Dr. Cecil brought to the Seminary, through the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, and used them unreservedly to the building up of our beloved institution.

"The Executive Committee expresses its deepest sympathy with the family, the Second Presbyterian Church, the Seminary, and the entire Southern Presbyterian Church in the great loss that has been sustained by his removal at the call of the Master.

"We bow in submission to His will and pray for the realization of the statement that 'God buries the workman but carries on the work.'

"In conclusion it may be said of Dr. Cecil, as preacher, teacher, pastor, writer, trustee, man, in the language of some writer:

"He held the lamp of truth that day
So low that none could miss the way;
And yet so high to bring in sight
That picture fair—The World's Great Light,
That gazing up—the lamp between—
The hand that held it scarce was seen.

"He held the pitcher, stooping low
To lips of little ones below;
Then raised it to the weary saint
And bade him drink when sick and faint.
They drank—the pitcher thus between—
The hand that held it scarce was seen.

"He blew the trumpet soft and clear,
That trembling sinners need not fear;
And then with louder note and bold,
To raze the walls of Satan's hold.
The trumpet coming thus between,
The hand that held it scarce was seen.

"And when the Master said, 'Well done,
Thou good and faithful servant, come!
Lay down the pitcher and the lamp,
Lay down the trumpet, leave the camp!'
The weary hand—ah, then 'twas seen
Clasped in those Pierced Hands, naught between."

Memorial Service

Second Presbyterian Church

A MEMORIAL service for the late Rev. Dr. Russell Cecil was held Sunday afternoon, November 8, 1925, in the Church, the purpose of which was to pay tribute to his work as a minister and citizen, not only in his own Church and the other Presbyterian Churches of Richmond, but his influence for sane, sound views for the greatest good of all of the Evangelical Churches.

Rev. W. L. Lingle, D. D., presided at this meeting, at which the following addresses were delivered:

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

By Rev. Walter L. Lingle, D. D., L.L D.
President of the
General Assembly's Training School for Lay Workers

WE have come together to pay tribute to the memory of a man whom we all loved and honored. For twenty-five years Dr. Cecil stood in this pulpit and preached with persuasiveness and power the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. For twenty-five years he went in and out among this people as their pastor, radiating good cheer and Christianity wherever he went. The members of this Church loved him devotedly, as the presence of this large audience testifies.

The elders, the deacons, the Vanguard Bible Class, and the Woman's Auxiliary of this Church have all passed appropriate resolutions expressing their love and devotion. These resolutions, along with others, will be published in a memorial volume in the near future.

I once heard Dr. W. T. Ellis, the distinguished traveler and writer, say that the minister's greatest temptation is to think only in terms of his own parish. If Dr. Cecil ever had such a temptation he did not yield to it. His interests and influence went far beyond his own congregation and beyond his own denomination.

While wandering through Westminster Abbey last summer I came across a tablet in memory of John Wesley. On it were engraved a number of his great sayings. Among them was this one: "The world is my parish." That might have been written of Dr. Cecil.

There are on the program this afternoon speakers who will tell of the labors and influence of Dr. Cecil in large branches of the Church's work which lay beyond his immediate congregation and beyond his own denomination, and your Committee on Arrangements has very graciously asked me to preside and present these speakers.

Dr. Cecil was deeply interested in the whole work of the Presbyterian Church in the City of Richmond, and through the Presbytery, the Presbyterian League, and every available channel, did all in his power to promote the work of every Presbyterian Church and every Presbyterian mission in the city. Rev. W. L. Carson, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, will speak on "Dr. Cecil's Work in the Denomination."

His interest in Presbyterianism went far beyond Richmond. It was as wide as the Church itself, and through many avenues he served the whole Church. He was a man whom our Church delighted to honor. In 1911 he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly. Very frequently the General Assembly elected him to positions of honor and service. For many years he was a member of the General Assembly's Executive Committee of Publication and Sabbath School Work, and for a number of years he was Chairman of this Committee. In this connection he rendered a large service. Rev. O. E. Buchholz, D. D., Professor of Missions and Evangelism in the General Assembly's Training School for Lay Workers will represent the Committee of Publication and speak of "Dr. Cecil's Work on the Committee of Publication."

In the City of Richmond is located Union Theological Seminary, one of the greatest Presbyterian institutions in the world. For the past hundred years it has been educating the majority of all the ministers in the Southern Presbyterian Church. For many years Dr. Cecil was a member of the Board of Trustees and a member of the Executive Committee of Union Theological Seminary, and in this connection rendered a large and unselfish service. Rev. Edward Mack, D. D., LL. D., McCormick Professor of Hebrew and the Interpretation of the Old Testament, in the Seminary, will speak on "Dr. Cecil's Work in Connection With Union Theological Seminary."

Dr. Cecil's interest crossed denominational lines. He was ready to co-operate with all evangelical interdenominational movements. He was deeply interested in "The World's Conference of Faith and Order,"

whose purpose it is to cultivate a spirit of brotherhood and co-operation among the various churches of the world.

At the time of his death he was Chairman of The Permanent Committee on the Bible Cause, and a member of the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society, which is an inter-denominational organization for the printing and dissemination of the Word of God throughout the world.

He was loved and honored by ministers and members of all denominations throughout this city. Rev. H. D. C. MacLachlan, D. D., Pastor of the Seventh Street Christian Church, will speak on "Dr. Cecil's Relation to Brother Ministers in Other Denominations."

When I remember that Dr. Cecil was pastor of this Church, and then look at the various other lines of Christian activities in which he was engaged, I wonder how he did it all. Yet he did it in a way that was effective and unhurried.

We thank God that such a man lived and labored in our midst, and that we knew and loved him. Dr. S. H. Chester, in speaking to me once of his love for another pastor in Richmond, said: "It is a great comfort to me when I think of the kind of people I love." It is of great comfort to us when we remember that we loved a man like Dr. Cecil, and that he loved us. The most fitting prayer that we can make today is that we may have a double portion of his spirit.

DR. CECIL'S SERVICES *and* INFLUENCE *in the* PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *of* RICHMOND, VA.

By Rev. W. L. Carson,
Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Va.

DURING the last twenty-five years Presbyterianism in Richmond has had no more loyal supporter, no wiser counselor, no more capable leader, no more zealous servant than Dr. Cecil.

As the Pastor of one of our largest and most influential Churches he has been responsible for building up and organizing a congregation that is a credit to our denomination. The Second Presbyterian Church is a powerful factor in all the affairs of Presbyterianism in the city. There is a sense in which this great congregation is a monument to Dr. Cecil's labors. It is true that he did not found it; an illustrious predecessor did that. But during Dr. Cecil's ministry the Church has increased its strength, acquired a deeper piety, and has grown in the grace of Christian liberality. His sermons have been the food upon which the life of the congregation has been nourished; love for him has been one of the bonds that has bound the congregation together; his unwavering faith and deep personal piety have ever been sources of inspiration; and his sane leadership has guided the Church in all of its great undertakings. The stamp of his personality is indelibly printed upon this congregation.

Dr. Cecil was a far-sighted ecclesiastical statesman. He believed in colonization rather than in centralization. He had a large share in establishing and fostering new churches in growing sections of our city. When his own members left his Church to take places of leadership in these young organizations, he forgot his own loss in his rejoicing over the gain of the cause of Christ. His friendship and support encouraged these congregations and their pastors in times of adversity. His influence procured funds to tide them over periods of emergency. He was generous in giving his time and energy to them in evangelistic meetings and other services. When the Presbyterian League was organized with a view to taking over the local extension work in our denomination, Dr. Cecil was one of its most enthusiastic supporters, one of its wisest counselors, and, until the day of his death, was one of its most faithful workers. He never allowed his interest in his own congregation, nor his ambition for its growth to interfere with his support of the general interests of the denomination at large throughout the city.

As an associate and friend, Dr. Cecil contributed largely to the pleasure and usefulness of his brethren in the ministry. His transparent unselfishness was a quiet but effective rebuke to all ambitious self-seeking. His unquenchable optimism was a tonic to those who were discouraged. His warm sympathy was a balm to hearts bruised by adversity. His fine judgment was a safeguard against errors of ignorance and impetuosity. During the latter years of his ministry his position among the Presbyterian ministers was almost unique. He was the oldest minister in years. He was

the oldest in point of service. His ripe experience and his familiarity with local affairs made his judgment invaluable wherever denominational plans were being made or denominational policies were being mapped out. His brethren relied upon his wisdom, and looked to him for counsel on all occasions. They loved him devotedly, looking upon him as a spiritual father.

In the affairs of the city, Dr. Cecil always reflected honor and credit upon the denomination to which he belonged. Whether in movements which involved co-operation with the other denominations, or in meetings of benevolent organizations, or in social gatherings, he always bore himself in such a way as to lead others to respect the Church which he represented, and to cause his own denomination to be proud of its representative.

These are some of the services which Dr. Cecil has rendered to Presbyterianism in Richmond. The members of our denomination may well thank God upon their every remembrance of him.

An APPRECIATION

from the

Executive Committee of Publication and Sabbath School Work

By Rev. O. E. Buchholz, D. D.

LIFE'S greatest achievement is a CHRISTIAN PERSONALITY. When an outstanding CHRISTIAN lives among us for a quarter of a century and then is called to his eternal home at the age of seventy-two, we see and we feel his immeasurable value to humanity and to the Kingdom of God. As the weeks and the months go by since his home-going we see more clearly and we feel more deeply the abiding worth of his rich and rounded personality—a personality which has stood the tests of early discipline and training, of embarrassing popularity, of toilsome service, and of suffering and death.

These few words express the viewpoint and embody the feelings of the Executive Committee of Publication and Sabbath School Work of the Southern Presbyterian Church concerning the late Rev. Russell Cecil, D. D.

He served as a member of the Publication Committee from 1901 to 1919, and as its Chairman from 1919 until the day of his departure. His radiant and glowing personality was one of the inspiring features of each meeting of the Committee. Self-pity never found expression on his lips and selfishness was banished from his life by love. He was neither lax nor hard in his relation with others, but he endeavored to practice unceasingly the Golden Rule which was the subject of

his last written sermon. He united the highest culture with the widest human interests, and he was thereby equipped to receive sympathetically and to solve wisely the difficult problems which arose from the deeper levels of the Church's life. His knowledge and wisdom and patience and love brought him to the highest post as Chairman of the Publication Committee, a place of pre-eminent influence in shaping the policies for the printing and distribution of Christian literature and in guiding the work of Religious Education in the entire Southern Presbyterian Church.

The following excerpt was taken from the Minutes of the Committee at the meeting of October 6th, 1925: "The officials and all the members of the Executive Committee will ever hold as a precious memory their association with Dr. Cecil through these years of service, and we desire to record our deep sense of loss in the home-going of this princely servant of God. The Church has lost a loyal and efficient worker, his family a devoted husband and father, and the community an illustrious and useful citizen, but all are the richer for his life and example."

DR. CECIL'S SERVICES *to* UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

By Rev. Edward Mack, D. D.
Professor Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.

DR. CECIL'S versatility of gifts, and his unselfish and impartial helpfulness, will keep his name in the lasting and grateful remembrance of the trustees, faculty and students of our largest Theological Seminary. Not a single good cause of the Church or Community failed of his interest and support. A great heart, a wise mind, and an unselfish purpose to serve, made him the friend of all holy and kindly undertakings. Wherever Christ's work was, there his heart was to be found in sympathy, and his hand wrought in strength.

Although always under requisition for service in so many other causes and spheres: as pastor, presbyter, community leader, author, citizen; he found time, however, to serve in another field of activity. His devoted life was so endowed with talents, so vigorous and so well-organized, he was ready and equipped to answer the call of duty in any place of need. To his many other lines of Christian work he added yet another: devotion to Christ and achievement for Him in the wide sphere of Christian Education.

Although graduated from another Theological Seminary (Princeton), which often honored him with expressions of confidence and positions of trust, electing him at one time president of its Alumni Association,

yet from the beginning of his ministry in Richmond, he gave his sympathy and co-operation to Union Theological Seminary because he recognized its strategic position in the activities of our Southern Church, and its inestimable value in the cause of World Evangelization. Staunch conservative that he was and at the same time a warm hearted evangelical, he appreciated the happy combination in a great Seminary of those two noble ideals: sound evangelical doctrine and fervent enthusiasm for world evangelism.

Himself a widely and thoroughly educated man, his interest in Christian Education was always alert and active. All of our Church schools and educational institutions, centering in Richmond, are under debt to his greatness and goodness. For years he was Chairman of the Executive Committee of Publication and Sunday School Work, which sends out its teaching and training influences into every part of our Southland. For some years he taught with ability, classes in Christian Theology in our Assembly's Training School, a by-product of such service in that institution being the publication of his useful Handbook of Theology.

Here it is appropriate to call to mind the rich contribution of this Church of which he was pastor, to the building up and direction of our Seminary. The President of its Board is an Elder of this Church. The beloved George L. Christian served for many years as Vice-President of the Board. One of its beloved Deacons as a member of the Finance Committee. And each year a young man of distinction from the graduating class continues in a year of graduate study his preparation for a life of highest service in the Church on the foundation of the Moses D. Hoge Fellowship.

From the moment Dr. Cecil entered the pastorate of the Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond his attitude was that of cordial friendship, and as the years passed he came to be one of the trusted advisers, although for the first years of his pastorate he had no official connection with the Seminary. At a critical time he rendered a very great service to the Seminary, and one which must have cost him a heavy personal sacrifice, in filling through one session the Chair of Church History, when, following the death of Dr. Strickler, Dr. Johnson had been transferred from that Chair to the Chair of Theology.

The Synod conferred honor on itself and rendered a signal benefit to the Seminary when it elected him a member of the Seminary Board of Directors in 1918, in which office he continued to the lamented end of his life. After his election, he was promptly made a member of the Executive Committee, to which he became a tower of strength. This Committee found him both so wise and so willing to lay himself out in the work that they soon came to rely upon his sound judgment and to shape their course largely by his advice. The last public service rendered by him was attendance upon a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Seminary on Friday, June 12th. That very evening he was stricken, but the good which he accomplished at that meeting will be of far-reaching benefit to the seminary. His scholarship and balanced judgment led to his appointment as a member of the Board's Curriculum Committee, of which he was also Chairman for a time. He also served on many special committees, and performed many individual services which called for a man of tact and wisdom and gentleness.

And so his time, his talents and his great human interest have been inwrought into the remarkable growth of our great Seminary, to be a part of its service to mankind for all time.

There are certain precious Bible texts which we shall ever associate with Dr. Cecil:

"The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance."

"They that are teachers shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever."

"I have had much joy and comfort in thy love, brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by thee."

An APPRECIATION

Dr. Cecil and the Ministerial Union of Richmond, Va.
By the Rev. H. C. MacLachlan, D. D.

WHEN I came to Richmond, seventeen and a half years ago, the outstanding leader in the interdenominational life of Richmond was Dr. Cecil. He was not only never absent from the meetings of the Ministerial Association, when they were held in the old Presbyterian Building, but was always an outstanding figure in them. One of my vivid recollections is the prominent part played by him in the Chapman Evangelistic meetings. I recall that a committee representative of all the evangelical denominations went to Norfolk to secure Dr. Chapman's services. I believe, even yet, I can name that committee. Baptist, Dr. Ramsay; Episcopalian, Dr. James Clarke; Methodist, Dr. Andrew Christian; Lutheran, Dr. J. J. Scherer; Disciples, myself, and Presbyterian, Dr. Cecil. On the boat-trip across the sound I had my first real conversation with him. Our talk turned on preaching, and I remember as vividly as if it were yesterday the almost child-like glow with which Dr. Cecil spoke of the mysteries of sermon-building and the glory of preaching. He believed in the pulpit. He magnified the ministry. He was absolutely certain that the kingdom of heaven must come, not by politics, economics, or social service—though he did not undervalue these in their place—but by the preaching of the Word.

In one sense of the word, he was an old-time preacher. He was not afraid to preach theology,

therein following the lead of the greatest preachers of the past. He laid a burden on his hearers to think. He challenged them with the great facts of God, of the Incarnation, of the Holy Spirit, of the living Word. His thinking processes were always young, even if his conclusions were rooted in the past. He kept up with the latest theological books and enjoyed getting the newest thought in that realm, even though his own thinking was of a very different school. He never feared for the Ark of the Covenant. He had no classification of "fundamentalist" or "modernist" for his brethren, realizing that we are all saved by faith and not by theological opinion.

While a staunch Presbyterian, he was notably sympathetic in his attitude towards his brethren of other Communions. In every new movement he was a trusted leader. Always he could be counted on to espouse the cause of Christian charity and tolerance. No harsh word ever passed the portals of his lips. He had a large patience, a big heart even for his brethren (as he supposed) in error. I can think of no occasion in which the Protestant forces of Richmond were called upon to bear united witness that Dr. Cecil was not in the van of the host.

Above all, his brethren of the other Communions trusted him. During the last ten years, no meeting of the Ministerial Association where any important question requiring tact or finesse in its handling, was complete without Dr. Cecil. His patience, his ripe wisdom, his knowledge of Church procedure, his consideration of others, his aptness in discerning the crucial point of a debate constituted a rich endowment, reminiscent of the words of the prophet to the excited,

rash and restless people of Jerusalem: "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." He was pre-eminently a man of counsel—a counsellor. I can see him now where he used to sit, in the arm-chair near the southeast corner of the room, and see the faces of the ministers turned expectantly towards him when he intervened in debate. His presence was the balance-wheel of many sessions.

And now that he is gone, if his mantle has not yet fallen on another, at least his memory remains as a benediction and sets for all of his brethren whose locks are being touched with the snows of winter, the goal of a sure, wise, serene, hopeful and helpful old age.

On him, and such as he, are the foundations of the kingdom laid.

NEWSPAPER STATEMENTS

Richmond clergymen associated with Dr. Cecil in Richmond commented on his death in statements to the newspapers as follows:

DR. GEORGE W. MCDANIEL:

"I have known Dr. Cecil over twenty years, and have associated with him in moral and Christian work. He was perhaps the best loved and most implicitly trusted member of the Ministerial Union. He has entered upon the rich Heavenly reward. I sorrow as one who has lost a faithful friend and fellow worker."

DR. CHARLES L. KING:

"Dr. Cecil approximated the New Testament ideal of a good minister of Jesus Christ. He was a man of God—a preacher of the Word. He made no apology for the Gospel he proclaimed. He magnified his calling. His life was a beautiful illustration of the power of the Gospel. The church can thank God for such a minister and pray that his spirit may abide upon those who carry on the work he loved.

"Many of us feel that we have lost our spiritual father."

REV. J. N. LATHAM, D. D.:

"I feel that in the death of Dr. Cecil the community has suffered a great loss. He was an able preacher, a sympathetic pastor, and a friend of all the churches;

interested in everything pertaining to the spreading of the Kingdom of God. I feel a personal loss in his going."

Rev. William E. Cox:

"Personally, I was devoted to Dr. Cecil. He was one of the finest men I know anywhere, both as an individual and a Christian. Everybody loved Dr. Cecil."

EDITORIAL

(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

DR. CECIL

For twenty-five years the Rev. Russell Cecil, A. B., A. M., D. D., clergyman, pastor and author, lived and ministered in Richmond. And never did one man more crowd a quarter of a century with good works, with kindly teaching and with modest leadership toward the right than did this good man. The degrees he earned from Princeton, the degree conferred upon him by Southwestern Presbyterian University, and the periods of study spent at the University of Edinburg and in Europe and the Orient indicate the profound scholarship of the teacher; the strength of his Church here in Richmond testifies to the power of his ministry and to the care he lavished upon his people as their pastor; and the respect and affection which he inspired in clergy and laity of other faiths constitute a living memorial to his concept of brotherhood in all faith.

With all the gentle qualities he possessed, there was added a mind so clear, a vision so unclouded and a spirit so high that his counsel and his calm wisdom were called upon for service by the whole of the Presbyterian Church, South. As moderator, as chairman of executive committees—including the Committee on Publication and the Committee of his Church in the World Conference on Faith and Order—Dr. Cecil was summoned to the aid and guidance of his church time after time. Indeed, he was moderator of every court in the Presbyterian Church, South, at the same time—

a distinction never held by any other, it is believed, of the Southern Presbyterian Church.

So, then, he wrought mightily in the church at large. But always he wrought gently: because, partly, of his education in the North, he sought always to bring about closer relations between his and the Northern Church; because of his lofty spirit, he strove to reconcile what might have been warring elements; because he was a faithful follower, he spoke the softer word. He was a mediator, as well as a moderator. He could afford to speak the softer word, because all his preaching, all his teaching, all his ministry and all his pastorate, were based on an unswerving belief in the eternal principles to which he and his Church held: never an unsound sentence passed his lips.

Yet he was not stern, but kindly; he was not cold, but tender; he was not forbidding, but warm. To the end of his long and beautiful life—"So walked he from his birth, in simpleness and gentleness and honour and clean mirth."

Surely, too, another part of another line is true of him: That when yesterday he died, "He trod that day to God."—*Richmond Times-Dispatch.*

EDITORIAL

(Richmond News Leader)

HE SPARED NOT HIMSELF

Dr. Russell Cecil stinted nothing he ever did.

Thoroughly schooled, he read widely and ceaselessly and never superficially. When he put down a book, he had wrung it dry. All that it contained of fact worth remembering, he had made part of himself. In preparing his sermons and public addresses, thoroughness seemed instinctive. People who listened to him for more than twenty years never knew him to enter his pulpit unready for his sermon. The sheep looked up and always were fed. He held to the tradition of direct delivery, without the tricks of oratory, and he stooped to no sensationalism of theme or manner, but he set a standard of thoughtful, scholarly ministration that no Richmond preacher of his generation excelled and only one or two ever rivaled. A worshipper could always be sure that he would leave the Second Presbyterian, after Dr. Cecil's sermon, strengthened in truth that had been persuasively and intelligently set forth.

Similar was the spirit he displayed in his pastoral labors and in the work of his denomination. When he visited, it was for service and not merely for courtesy. If he accepted responsibility as trustee or as director, he discharged it patiently. Intellectually and spiritually, his house was always in order. His desk in his study, one may be sure, was left on Saturday with each paper in place. And in his locker, no doubt, where he

put his sticks after his last round at his beloved golf, everything was precisely where it belonged.

His life bespoke obedience to conscience and a superb sincerity that were bound up with an inspiring intellectual honesty. Dr. Cecil had held the highest office in the Presbyterian Church, that of moderator of the General Assembly of the entire denomination—an office that goes only to those the whole brotherhood trusts. Yet he was not afraid to give Huxley and Tyndall a place on his shelves, and in his theology he was convinced, yet tolerant. He could "hear the other side" and neither be thrown back to over-conservatism nor swept into hasty theological radicalism. He was an admirable interpreter of old truth in new complexities because his intellectual honesty never failed him and never was hobbled by fear or by prejudice. He knew "on whom he had believed."

The closer one stood to him, the taller he seemed in spirit. The better one knew him, the more one respected his piety. There was something beautifully personal about his faith. You felt that, though he was able to make God very real in comfort and in hope to those in distress, he had a still closer fellowship himself. When he came from his own chamber, after his private devotions, you found yourself looking for the light on his countenance that is given to those who have been in the very Presence.

He came to Richmond when he was 47. The Second Presbyterian was his fourth pastorate. It was a heavy charge, for between him and the great Moses D. Hoge there had been only one brief ministry, in a period of difficult adjustment. Those who were privileged to have his company knew how he prepared himself that

summer of 1900 for the responsibility he was assuming. He spent three months in prayer. When at length he took up his duties it was with a zeal that two-score years and more in no wise lessened. Richmond moved westward. The Gothic building atop Fifth Street hill became a downtown church. Dr. Hoge's familiar house that seemed as tall and as gaunt as he, was knocked over in order that an office-building and apartment might have the land. The friendly neighborhoods were broken up. Dr. Cecil held his ground and yielded nothing to time or change. Truth was eternal. He held fast to it.

Now that he is dead, perhaps they will undertake a removal the congregation would not have considered in his lifetime. A new Second Presbyterian may rise in the district where most of its members reside. But if the change comes, it will not hurt him, for though he preached *in* the Church, he preached *to* his audience, and deep in their hearts, far down in the cortices that give men their outlook on life, he will live and will speak.—*Richmond News Leader.*

EDITORIAL

(The Presbyterian of the South)

Rev. Dr. Russell Cecil has completed his work on earth and has gone to his higher work in heaven. On Saturday evening, June 13th, he was reading over the manuscript of the sermon he had prepared for Sunday, when the summons came without any premonition. For forty-eight hours he tarried before leaving loved ones and friends to join his Saviour in His Heavenly home. Few men have ever been better prepared to answer the call, and few have ever deserved more the plaudit of the Saviour, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Dr. Cecil was pre-eminently a man of God. He lived near to Him, as his life showed. A Christian business man of this city said to a friend one day, "I do not know Dr. Cecil personally, but I am always glad to see him pass my office window. He preaches a sermon as he walks on the street." There are hundreds of others who would say the same thing.

He was faithful to God and to his fellowman. He willingly and earnestly performed every duty as it was presented to him. His first thought always was as to what he could do for the advancement of the kingdom of God. He preached the pure gospel of salvation through faith in the crucified Saviour. His preaching was practical and carried its message to the hearts and minds of his hearers. He was faithful and loyal to the doctrines and the sentiments of the Southern Presbyterian Church.

In recognition of his character and his services, his Church conferred on him many honors. This was

strikingly shown, when in 1911 and 1912 he had the experience, probably unique in the history of the world, of being the moderator of four Church courts at the same time. These courts were the Session of the Second Church, Richmond, the Presbytery of East Hanover, the Synod of Virginia and the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church.

He was so wise and efficient as a member of these courts that he was placed upon, often as chairman of, many of their most important committees and commissions. He was always regular in his attendance upon the sessions of these courts, ever showing a deep interest in all of the business that came before them. He did not talk a great deal in the discussions of the business, but when he did speak he showed a clearness of conception and grasp that was very noticeable and which usually carried conviction to his hearers. He was quiet and gentle in his manner and in all of his bearing.

He was considerate of the feelings and opinions of others. He was true, sincere and sympathetic in his friendship. No one ever went to him for counsel, advice or comfort who came away disappointed at his reception. He was a man whom men admired and loved.

For nearly a half a century he served the church as pastor and preacher, as presbyter and writer. For twenty-five years he had been the pastor of the Second Church of Richmond, where he proved himself a strong and wise leader, of a strong church.

His impress has been made deeply upon this as upon each of the congregations that he served, upon this whole city and upon the Church at large. His going

has left an aching void in many a heart and many vacancies in the Church. Those who knew him best loved him most and felt his loss the deepest. They will cherish his memory, rejoice that he was their friend and be thankful that the association which was so dear on earth shall be renewed in the Father's home above, where there shall be no parting of friends.

ADDRESS

Delivered by Mr. John S. Munce Before the Woman's Auxiliary of the Second Presbyterian Church

"Mark the perfect man and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace."

"And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him."

THESE two passages from God's Word epitomize the life of him in whose memory we are met today.

It is for many of us a new experience we are going through as a Church; in its eighty years of existence this is only the second time the Church has had to mourn the death of a pastor—the beloved Dr. Hoge, in the year 1899, and now Dr. Cecil, who entered into rest June 15, 1925. Dr. Hoge was pastor for fifty-four years, Dr. Guthrie for less than a year, Dr. Cecil for twenty-five years; three, we may say, only, two pastors in eighty years. What a record! Unique in the annals of churches, but, oh! how we thank God for it—thank Him for "those immortal dead who live again in lives made better by their presence here."

Twenty-five years have passed since we called Dr. Cecil to be our pastor. He was installed November 4, 1900, by a Committee of East Hanover Presbytery—Rev. Dr. Smith, Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, Rev. Dr. Calvin Stewart, Rev. Dr. Kerr and Captain John A. Coke. Every member of that committee has preceded Dr. Cecil into the home in Heaven.

The committee of this Church that had been appointed to nominate a pastor to the congregation was Mr. W. W. Henry, Judge G. L. Christian, M. M. Gilliam and John S. Munce from the Session; S. H. Hawes, E. D. Taylor and J. L. Anderson from the Deacons. Of that committee only Mr. Taylor and myself remain, and of all the members of the Session and Board of Deacons at that time only Mr. E. D. Taylor, H. S. Hawes and myself remain. All the rest have joined the saints in "the house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

So you see how the membership of the Church changes even in twenty-five years, and we here today are reminded that the Church is not dependent on any one person; it is not man's work but God's. "God removes the workers but carries on the work."

We are met this afternoon for a memorial service, and I take it for granted that we are not in any formal, cold and critical way to discuss Dr. Cecil and analyze his character, but rather just talk of him as we knew him and loved him. It is easy to talk of one we have loved, and may I hope it is easy also to listen while another talks.

Like the Ephesian elders at Miletus about Paul, "We sorrow most of all that we shall see his face no more." We never get used to death; no matter how surely we expect it, when it comes it is startling, overwhelming, crushing, and I have often thought if we who have the Christian's hope in our hearts think death so cruel when our loved ones are taken from us, how are those who have no faith or hope able to stand it. God pity them!

It is hard for us to realize that the kindly gentleman to whom we have looked as our Christian leader and guide has passed away from us and that we shall see his face no more.

When he came to us twenty-five years ago, he soon won his way into all our hearts by his modest and gracious manners and by his devotion to his work.

Today in thinking about him and what he has been to us all during these twenty-five years, over and above our sadness rises a note of joy that we knew him, a note of thankfulness that God gave him to us for so many years of work and usefulness, years of leadership in our common labor in the Master's kingdom, years of sweet fellowship, years of loving sympathy, years of helpfulness. To adapt the words of the well-known hymn:

> "For this thy saint who from his labours rests,
> Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
> Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
> Hallelujah!"

Dr. Cecil was a man of most pleasing personality; he made friends everywhere he went, and his winning smile revealed the affectionate and tender heart. He was a welcomed guest in all our homes, and I think I may say we are all sorry that we did not see more of him. Men liked him, women liked him and, best of all, children liked him. Quiet of manner and gentle of speech, his tongue spoke no guile. I never remember hearing him speak an unkind word against any one. When differences arose, no bitter or cruel word escaped his lips. "In his tongue was the law of kindness." But this does not mean that he was insincere or a

weakling or without definite opinions. Firm in what he believed to be right, he had the courage and bravery to stand up for the truth always; even those who differed, respected and honored him. Many a lesson in self-control and kindness of speech I learned watching him. "He left a world grown kindlier that he came."

Dr. Cecil was a true pastor. When joy came, he rejoiced with us; in hours of depression, he cheered and heartened us; when sorrow and darkness overshadowed, his gentle and comforting words and heartfelt sympathy came as a brightening gleam through the gloom, and as a healing balm to the wounded heart, strengthening us to take up again bravely the duties of life.

Sympathy is better felt than expressed. The brief word and the pressure of a hand often convey more than many words, and we knew that he truly sympathized with us in our sorrows, as he told us of the Comforter waiting to enter our hearts to heal and bless.

Dr. Cecil had received a splendid education, studying at Princeton University, Princeton Seminary, and, later, at Edinburgh University. Possessed of a wonderfully clear mind, enriched by wide and discriminating reading of the best literature, and broadened by travel and contact with many men of many minds, he had a noble and large vision of life and its greatness, and a deep and sincere passion for souls.

His chosen life work was to preach the gospel of God's redeeming love for sinful men, and no false or discordant note marred the harmony of his message. He was never led aside by popular clamour to discuss sensational or ephemeral subjects in the pulpit. The

burden of his message was "God so loved the World that He gave His only begotten Son that *whosoever* believeth in Him should not perish but *have* everlasting Life."

In this age when the lure of worldly prosperity is so attractive to men, his cry was, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you." So he preached faithfully and powerfully and with a passionate earnestness we all felt and knew. There was no note of doubt in his message. He did not *defend* the truth; he *affirmed* it. "I KNOW Whom I have believed," he proclaimed, and so amid all the confusion and storms of modern doubt and strange views and so-called Modernism, he remained steadfast. He knew that God would take care of His own Truth and that it would prevail. I feel that he had realized the fulfillment of the promise, "If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God."

He knew God's truth by experience and preached it with all his heart and soul and strength and mind, and his soul yearned that men would accept Christ and be at peace. He wanted his people to dwell in the house of happiness, and in that house Jesus must be an honored guest.

Like all good preachers, he prepared his sermons with the utmost care. He disliked careless work, especially for the pulpit. Great themes demanded great thought and diligent work.

He spent much time in prayer, and knew the value of these hours of communion with God, and earnestly urged his people to cultivate the habit of prayer.

He was never happier than when doing evangelistic work, and I have frequently heard him preach earnestly, faithfully and eloquently to a crowd of working men and women, in their overalls, at their lunch-hour in a factory, with evident joy in his heart, his face shining as he told them of Jesus and His love. "He loved God's gentler face and made it dear."—*Lowell.*

This explains his zeal for Foreign Missions. Not the veneer of civilization, not ethical culture, not art, not humanitarianism nor uplift work, excellent as all these are in their proper place, could redeem heathendom from its darkness and cruelty and idolatry. Jesus Christ and Him crucified as the Saviour of the world, the only remedy for sin. The foolishness of preaching was God's way of proclaiming the Gospel. First and always, Dr. Cecil believed the Gospel of Christ to be the only way of lifting heathendom from its deep and dark and cruel grave.

Dr. Cecil was much beloved by his brethren in the ministry. His warm-hearted brotherliness, his sound common sense, his unselfishness made him truly a "Father in Israel." Many of them took him their problems, valuing his wise counsel and advice, always freely given. A Richmond minister said to me, "He was like a father to me; my problems of faith, my personal troubles, the difficulties in my work—I went to him with them all and always he was kind and wise and helpful. I cannot express in words how much he has been to me."

There was no selfishness or jealousy of other workers in him. He rejoiced in everything that promoted the Kingdom of God.

Called again and again to the highest positions of honor in the Church, not because he sought them, for he was modest and retiring and never self-seeking, but because his brethren looked up to him as a wise counselor and a safe leader. In the General Assembly, I have seen him enter a discussion that had reached a tense point, with much feeling shown, and in his quiet, forceful way offer a suggestion that would immediately appeal to all and bring peace and harmony out of confusion. He was a great Presbyter, a great bishop in our Church, and his counsels will be sorely missed.

Not only among his brethren in the ministry nor among the members of his own Church, but among his fellow citizens of all classes and all faiths was he loved and esteemed. The Roman Catholic Bishop and the Jewish Rabbi were his friends. I have heard capable business men say "what a leader he would have been in the business world," but he chose the better part—the winning of souls for Christ's Kingdom, "laying up, not treasures on earth, but treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do noth break through nor steal."

Dr. Cecil never sought publicity. Like the great Dr. Jowett, he believed "that when a minister of the Gospel is doing his proper work he makes no *'copy'* for the newspaper. It is when he does and says things outside his proper sphere that he provides headlines for the secular press." Yet he was one of the best known, best loved and most highly respected citizens of this city. When he died the city mourned him, the crowd at his funeral—men and women from all ranks and walks of life—testified their loss of a friend. Both of our daily newspapers not only published bio-

graphical notices of him, but editorials expressing in a striking way their admiration for him as a man, a citizen, and a minister of the Gospel. The closing lines of one of these editorials reads, "Yet he was not stern, but kindly; he was not cold, but tender; he was not forbidding, but warm. To the end of his long and beautiful life—so walked he from his birth, in simpleness and gentleness and honor and clean mirth." Surely, too, another part of another line is true of him: that when yesterday he died "he trod that day to God."

What Dr. Cecil was to this Church, who can estimate? Coming to its pastorate at a critical time in its history, following in less than a year a man conspicuous for eloquence, character and force, the work of the church prospered greatly under him. Enlarged membership, greatly enlarged contributions to all benevolent causes, enlarged Home and Foreign Missionary enterprises, enlarged work in many fields, yet all done without one word of self praise, it was always "not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy and for Thy truth's sake."

When Dr. Hoge was celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of his pastorate of this Church, he paid this tribute to the ladies of the Church—"The female members of the Church were characterized by their intelligence and zealous and hearty devotion to the work of the different societies organized among them for benevolent purposes of every kind, and no other agency has accomplished more for the prosperity of this Church or for the great enterprises of Christian philanthrophy by which the world is benefited and blest." Dr. Cecil had equally warm and loving appreciation

of the loyal assistance you ladies gave him in his work, and often spoke to the Session about it. You will miss him, miss his wise counsels, miss his words of encouragement and cheer and helpfulness, and I think if he could send you a message today it would be the words the English soldiers said to each other in the World War, "Carry on."

With great tenderness would I speak today of her who mourns her life-long lover, husband, companion. We know how fortunate and happy and blessed he was in his wife. Like the wise preacher of old, he could say, "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her." "She did him good and not evil all the days of his life." Our prayers go up for her today, that the comforting message of Christ's love that her husband carried to many bereaved hearts, may comfort her, and that her heart may not be troubled till she joins him in the mansion that Christ has prepared for them, eternal in the Heavens.

I bring you no lessons drawn from his life. Each of us knows best what we learned of him, but for what he was to us for so many years our praise goes up "Unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

DR. CECIL'S LAST SERMON
The GOLDEN RULE

[This sermon was the last prepared by Rev. Dr. Russell Cecil. It was to have been delivered to his congregation at the Second Church, in Richmond, Va. The last work that he did was going over this sermon Saturday evening, familiarizing himself with it, so as to be ready to preach it the next morning. While thus engaged the summons from the Master came. Through Sunday and until Monday afternoon he tarried for the final call, and then went to be with the Saviour whom he loved and served so well. This last message to his people, Dr. Cecil was not permitted to deliver. We consider ourselves fortunate in being able to give it to all of our readers.]

—*Presbyterian of the South.*

"Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do you even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."—MATTHEW 7:12.

This verse is known as the Golden Rule of Christian Conduct, and many people, not a few of whom do not profess to be Christians, claim to have adopted this as descriptive of their way of life and of their attitude toward other people. I have endeavored to discover the author of this beautiful phrase, "The Golden Rule," as applied to these words of our blessed Lord; but all of my search has been in vain. No one, however, can question the beauty of the term. It is contended by some that Jesus is not the Author of the Golden Rule. It is found in the Apocryphal book of Tobit and in the teachings of Confucius, the Chinese philosopher, in the negative form. It remained, however, for Jesus Himself to make the positive declaration, as we find it here in the text, and also in virtually

the same words in the gospel of Luke. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do you even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

In this positive form you have, not only the expression of justice in our dealings with our fellow men, but beyond that the expression of grace and goodness. The Golden Rule, as our Lord puts it, calls for love in the heart as well as an outward manifestation in the life. The Golden Rule is not only "the law," but it is also "the prophets." That is to say, it includes the whole teaching of the Old Testament Scriptures, as well as of the New. Jesus had a way of summing up the significance of God's revelation of His will as it is found in the Old Testament Scriptures in a few words, like these of the Golden Rule, and then giving to the words a new and fuller application. The Golden Rule as it comes from Jesus embraces everything of a practical nature in the Christian life.

It is a common experience with me, and no doubt with you also, to hear some one say, "Well, I do not claim to be much of a Christian, or perhaps not a Christian at all in the true sense, my faith is weak and faltering; but I have adopted the Golden Rule as the law of my life, to do unto others as I would like them to do unto me; the Golden Rule is my religion." Now this is certainly a large claim, and I apprehend that many people make it without fully realizing the full significance of what they are saying and undertaking to do. I have never before taken the Golden Rule as a text for a sermon, and I do not remember ever to have heard a sermon preached upon it. But it occurs to me that half an hour spent upon thinking and talking about

it might prove of practical value to our spiritual life; and therefore I ask your attention this morning to some thoughts upon the Golden Rule.

The Golden Rule in Business

Let us consider the application of it in the business affairs of life. I understand there is a man of large business interests in the city of Cincinnati who is known as "Golden Rule Nash"; and for some years past he has been endeavoring to apply the principle of the Golden Rule in all of his business affairs and in all of his dealings with his employees. It is commonly reported by those who are acquainted with his experience that not only has his business largely increased, but his adoption of the Golden Rule has also added much to his own satisfaction and to the happiness of those who are employed by him. I can readily understand how the application of the Golden Rule to business would effect a marvelous change in the relationship existing between capital and labor, the employer and his employees. I believe that we have many business houses throughout the country, and certainly some of them here in our own city, which are gradually, but steadily adopting this great principle with satisfactory results.

Suppose that a man who does not profess to be a Christian, or whether he be a Christian or no, claims to adopt the Golden Rule in his dealings with his fellow men, in business and elsewhere, how much does this include?

Suppose you are a prosperous man, it means that you are not striving to prosper at the expense of your

fellow men. While competition may be the life of trade, and more or less of it perhaps is necessary; if you are going to treat the other man as you would like for him to treat you, you must be just and generous to him, and you must not lose your charity and sympathy for the man who is not prosperous; and you must not take advantage of the poor man who is dependent upon his daily labor for a living for himself and his loved ones. If you are living by the Golden Rule you cannot say to yourself, "Well, this fellow cannot help himself, and he is bound to do as I tell him, whether agreeable to him or not, or whether he likes it or not." If you are going to treat others as you would like to be treated, you must put yourself in their place.

But suppose you are not a prosperous man; but, as is the case with the vast majority of men, you fail sooner or later; and suppose you are striving with adversity and finding it daily a hand-to-mouth struggle to make a living; there is no reason why, even under those circumstances, you should not adopt the Golden Rule, and say, "I am going to treat others as I would like to have others treat me." In that case you should not be envious and jealous of the prosperous man and hate him, and say that he is taking advantage of his position to oppress you; and you should not be unkind to your fellows who are in the same condition as yourself. The man in adversity should put himself in the place of the prosperous man, and should think, "Now if I were prosperous what would I do? How would I treat those who perhaps are not as prosperous as I am, or who are dependent upon me for their daily bread?"

In short, when we come to apply the Golden Rule to the daily affairs of business life you will find that it is not an easy thing to do; and when a man says to me, "Well, I do not profess to be a Christian, but I live by the Golden Rule," I wonder if he really understands what he is saying, and if he realizes what a big proposition he has taken upon his hands. There are some people who say it is impossible to apply the Golden Rule in all business affairs of life. Jesus, however, did not think so; and He is our greatest Teacher as well as our greatest Example.

The Golden Rule in Society

But let us next consider the application of the Golden Rule to the ordinary social affairs of life. It should not only apply to business, but also to society.

If you are to follow the Golden Rule you cannot be harsh in your judgment of others. In this Sermon on the Mount our Lord touches practically upon all of these applications of the Golden Rule which I am endeavoring to bring to your attention. He says, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again." If we are harsh in our judgment of others we may be sure that others will be harsh in their judgment of us. If you do not wish others to judge you harshly, when you are perhaps in trouble or difficulty, or have committed serious errors or mistakes, you must not be harsh in your judgment of them. The best of society is by no means perfect; and the best people in society are by no means perfect. This is true in any rank or grade

of life—among the rich and the poor, the high and the low—and the same principle should apply, and the Golden Rule is equally true for us all. If you do not wish others to be bitter against you, jealous of you, and critical of you, be sure that you do not indulge in such a state of mind toward them.

The one thing above all others which should control us in our application of the Golden Rule is the exercise of charity toward the faults of other people. We should remember that we have faults of our own, and we wish to be judged charitably. Charity covers a multitude of sins, and it is a cloak of love which we should use in all of our thoughts and dealings with others. If you are so unfortunate as to hear a slanderous story against one of your fellows, do not be eager to believe it. But be slow to believe it, and do not believe it at all, unless you have proof positive that it is true, and proof that cannot be ignored. Many persons are seriously injured by slander, and because people are not willing to exercise charity toward them.

We may be kind and helpful in society, as in business and in other matters of life. Sometimes people are cruel in their extreme reserve; and leave the impression (whether they mean to do so or not) that they are very much better and superior to their neighbors. This is what our Lord used to characterize as Pharisaism; and He was not mild in the terms He used concerning it. I remember many years ago reading a lecture by Ruskin addressed to girls; and one of his exhortations to them, very earnestly emphasized, was, "Girls, do not be cruel to each other." At that time I could hardly appreciate what he meant. But I have learned that girls in a very quiet, and often apparently

sweet way, can be exceedingly cruel to each other. If you do not wish others to be cruel to you, do not you be cruel to them. The Golden Rule can find a multitude of applications in ordinary social life.

The Golden Rule in the Family

Next we may consider the application of the Golden Rule in the family life. The home is a wonderful place to try it. Many homes would be happier and better if the Golden Rule was constantly in use among the members in their dealings with each other.

Love should be the controlling force in the home. But we are often tempted to be critical and fault-finding, even with members of our own household. If one gives way to that disposition he should not be surprised if others do the same thing. We should learn to be gentle and patient with each other. Large families and large family connections may be very happy, useful and helpful to each other, if they will apply the Golden Rule in all of their dealings with each other. On the contrary, if they are not willing to apply the Golden Rule, there may be much unhappiness and misery and hard feelings among them. It is easy enough in any community to compare the home life of families. Some very large families, which have multiplied to maybe a dozen different households, live in great peace and harmony; while others are not able to get on with each other, but are jealous, and continually snarling and fighting each other. If we are to do unto others as we would have them do unto us, we should certainly begin in our own homes and among our own connections and blood relations. Some large

family connections are a great blessing to the community in which they live; while others manage to keep the community in a continual snarl.

Let us therefore study not to be critical of each other; but to be helpful to each other. Not to be jealous of each other, but to rejoice in each other's prosperity. Nothing will produce more unhappiness than bitterness and jealousy in the home life. We should not be forgetful of each other's interests; but should study to advance each other's interests.

The Golden Rule in the Church

But once more, let us consider the Golden Rule in its application to our work in the Church as Christians. After all it is the Christian Rule of Conduct, and comes to us from our blessed Saviour Himself. He gives it a broad and comprehensive application when He says, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." I have step by step made certain practical applications of the Golden Rule—to business, to society, and to the home—but as Christians we cannot really separate our lives into great departments, and say that we can apply the Golden Rule to one, and not to another. What I have had in mind especially up to this point is that many people, who do not profess to be Christians, yet claim that they live by the Golden Rule. My contention is, if you are going to live by the Golden Rule, you have to live the Christian life; and certainly it must begin in the Church of God, in our dealings with our fellow Christians. If you are not a Christian, can you really

live by the Golden Rule? and if you are a Christian, are you living by the Golden Rule? Let each one of us take this now to himself and be honest with himself.

If as Christians we are to live by the Golden Rule we must practice the forgiving spirit. Suppose you have offended some one, or done something you ought not to do; you certainly wish to be forgiven. If you wish others to forgive you then you must be forgiving yourself. Our Lord goes so far in this same Sermon on the Mount as to make the application, "I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. . . . Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you. That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." This means that the Father in heaven is continually forgiving those who have offended against Him. Indeed all of us who are saved must be forgiven by the heavenly Father, and He is continually doing good to us, even when we are forgetful of Him and sinning against Him. Now, says Jesus, if you are to be the children of your Father which is in heaven, you should cultivate the spirit of your Father in heaven. He even goes so far as to say, "If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

This Golden Rule should control us in our work in the Church. We need to be helpful to each other, not critical of each other. What can we hope to accomplish by simply bearing down on each other, and abusing other people in the Church, often times when we

ourselves are no better than they. I must say I have never seen much good accomplished by a professional kicker in the Church, or anywhere else. I believe that those who do most good in the Church are those who exercise the loving, forgiving spirit, the helpful spirit, the spirit of co-operation; those who are ready to do their part, and not to shift the responsibility on other shoulders, and then criticise these others for not doing what they think ought to be done. Let us not be too sensitive and too afraid of having our feelings hurt. Let us think about the work of the Church, let us love that, and love our brothers and sisters who are endeavoring to do their part. Treat others, even in the Church of God, as you would have them treat you. Be warm and friendly and loving and prayerful. It has been one of the chief characteristics of the life of this Church that the people have lived in such harmony and good-will toward each other. Let us continue to cultivate that trait; as Paul says, "Study the things that make for peace." The Apostle James gives us some good advice when he says, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

Let us apply the Golden Rule also to those who are tempted, and to those who give way before temptation. All of us are subject to temptation, and all of us yield to it. So the apostle Paul says in writing to the Galatians, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." This means, if one be overtaken in a fault, do not begin to criticise him, to abuse him, to withdraw

from him and to threaten to put him out of the Church. But we are to restore him, remembering that we are all subject to temptation. Treat him as you would like for him to treat you. Suppose you commit a fault, suppose you yield to temptation, would you wish all the people in the Church to criticise you, and leave you to go from bad to worse? Treat others as you would have them treat you under similar circumstances.

Let us also apply the Golden Rule to those who are in trouble. Be sympathetic and helpful to the sick and the sorrowful. When you are in trouble, how do you feel, if others forget you, neglect you, are cold and unsympathetic in their attitude toward you? You appreciate the kindness, the love and the help of your friends in times of trouble; therefore you should exercise the same spirit toward them. There is nothing that touches the heart like sympathy and help, when one is in trouble; and frequently, I am happy to say, people who are in great trouble tell me, "I did not know I had so many friends; and their kindness has broken my heart." This is the Christian spirit; this is really the application of the Golden Rule.

Help Needed

In these, and in many other ways which I have not mentioned, when we think seriously about it, we can understand what our Lord meant by saying, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets"; and we can understand what it implies when one says he does not claim to be a Christian, but that he adopts the Golden Rule as his rule of

life. How large a contract he has taken upon himself! Now honestly I do not believe that any man who is not a Christian can apply the Golden Rule; and I do not believe any Christian can do it, as our Lord intends for him to do it, unless he is led by the spirit of God and has His sustaining grace. If you and I are going to live by the Golden Rule, we must live near to the Saviour. Our Master says it is only in this way that we are to be the children of our Father who is in heaven. We have to learn to be like Him.

If you are going to adopt the Golden Rule, and certainly you cannot adopt a better one, you will have to start out by giving your heart to Christ; and you must ask His guidance and the help of His grace.

Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library
1 1012 01040 0226